

In attendance: Christine Carney, Robin Varghese, Douglass Davidoff, Marliisa Briggett, Ghanda DiFiglia, Gary Horowitz, William Logan, Sheri Baron

Absent: A. Nick Minton, Sharon Grossman, Jorge Loayaza,

Chair Carney called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM. The minutes of the November 18, 2014 meeting were accepted as amended. Marliisa Briggett made the motion to accept as amended; Gary Horowitz seconded the motion.

Chair Carney reported that the Commission received a letter from Bill Hayner, chair of the School Committee. He, Judd Pierce and Jennifer Susse will sit on the sub-committee formed to follow-up on Stephen Harrington's concerns about the disparity of the rate of detentions and suspensions with regard to ethnicity at Arlington High School. The Sub-committee will set up a meeting in the very near future. Commissioners Horowitz, Grossman and DiFiglia will be representing the AHRC on the joint subcommittee.

Chair Carney reported that, On Monday, December 15, 2014, a young man and his co-worker were locking up the Brigham's in Arlington Heights on Massachusetts Avenue. He noticed that a police vehicle, ostensibly heading west on Massachusetts Avenue toward Lexington, made a left turn and parked on Park Street abutting the Brigham's store. The young man and his co-worker got into his car and drove to Appleton Street where the co-worker lived, and the Arlington Police followed the car to this point. Once the co-worker exited the car, the police ended their "tail".

The young man contacted Police Chief Frederick Ryan. Chief Ryan, Chair Carney and Captain Richard Flynn met with the young man and Rev. Christine Elliott. The young man expressed that he was nervous and would have felt better if the police had pulled him over and told him why they were following him. Chief Ryan told the young man that he would speak to the officer and offered to arrange a meeting with the young man and the officer. Chief Ryan spoke to the officer and related the conversation to the young man, again offering to arrange for a meeting, but the young man did not feel a meeting would be necessary. Chief Ryan reported to Chair Carney that the young man seemed satisfied with the response by the police and no further action would be taken.

Commissioner Goldspie brought the group up-to-date on the LBGBTQ Survey update. Chair Carney reached out to Juli Brazil about piggy-backing with Vision 2020 in the census mailing, or possibly printing the AHRC survey onto the Vision 2020 insert. In May, 2015, CDBG rates may cause changing or re-structuring some of the questions. A sub-committee was formed to handle this, consisting of Commissioners Logan, Briggett, and Goldspie. The Vision 2020 will not meet during January prior to our meeting to make any decisions around our survey and theirs.

A discussion about the Arlington "Introduction to Public Accommodation Law for Arlington Businesses" ensued. Commissioner Briggett made a motion to re-print the brochure with appropriate updates. Commissioner Baron seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Baron suggested that this booklet be made available to all real estate brokers in Arlington. Chair Carney will see to it that PDF's for the public accommodation brochure and the AHRC brochure be sent to all real estate brokers.

Chair Carney reported on the rally that the Diversity Task Group coordinated in response to the recent events in Ferguson, MO and New York, NY. A panel discussion is being planned for either the end of January or beginning of February to continue the discussion regarding race relations and law enforcement. The details of this event are being worked out and the event is being coordinated by the Diversity Task Group. Chair Carney will act as liaison. Commissioner Briggett moved that we participate in the 2015 event, seconded by Commissioner Baron the motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion of open meeting regulations and Commissioners attending other meetings in groups of two or more. It was determined that this was alright as long as the members of AHRC did no deliberating.

Video-taping of AHRC meeting is permissible. All felt that the Commission should be notified before any taping.

Commissioner Davidoff brought to our attention that March 7, 2015, is the 50th anniversary of the Selma March. Commissioner Briggett suggested that we tie this anniversary in with our sponsorship of "True Story Theater".

There was discussion of submitting a warrant for Town Meeting 2015, requesting that the AHRC be permitted to have two co-chairs. No decision was made. The commissioners at the meeting seemed in favor of re-electing Christine Carney for a second term. Chair Carney agreed that she would take the role of chair for another year as long as she had everyone's agreement that work would be delegated on a broader scale than this past year. Commissioner Briggett moved to create a Citizen's Liaison to interface with the public. Commissioner DiFiglia seconded. Commissioner Baron will serve in this role.

Commission Davidoff moved to elect Chair Carney to a second term. Commissioner Briggett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Everyone thanked Chair Carney for the wonderful job she had done.

Motion made by Commissioner Varghese to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Baron. Chair Carney adjourned the meeting at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Sheri Baron